

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 3, 2014

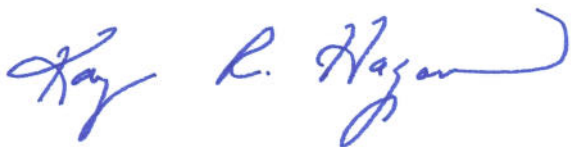
The Honorable Chuck Hagel  
Secretary of Defense  
Department of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Hagel,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to a recent proposal by the Air Force to inactivate the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing at Pope Airfield, NC. The 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing provides critical airlift, airborne, airdrop, and medical operations to support training and operational requirements of the Air Force, Army and Joint Special Operations forces. In March 2013, the Air Force provided the Senate Armed Services Committee with a force structure plan to bring C-130Js to Pope Airfield, while moving the C-130Hs currently stationed at Pope Airfield to other locations. The Air Force recently reversed this decision by proposing to cancel the move of C-130Js to Pope Airfield, while still transferring the C-130Hs.

I believe that Congress should have the opportunity to participate in decisions of this significance through the authorization process. Therefore, I urge the Air Force not to implement any changes concerning the C-130Js or C-130Hs proposed in the Fiscal Year 2015 budget if they differ from actions to implement the plan approved in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 until Congress completes work on the FY 2015 defense authorization and appropriation bills.

Sincerely,



Kay R. Hagan  
United States Senator